IN THE CLAIMS:

Prior to claim 1, please replace the heating "Claims" by the heading "What is claimed is:".

Please amend the claims of the International Application as shown below. The status of the claims after amendment will be as follows.

Claims 1 - 6 (cancelled)

7. (new) A reflow furnace comprising a preheating zone, a main heating zone, and a heater for blowing hot air disposed in each zone, each heater having a perforated plate having a plurality of discharge holes through which hot air can be discharged from the heater, wherein the total area of the discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is 1.5 - 5 times the total area of the discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone.

8. (new) A reflow furnace as claimed in claim 7 wherein the number of discharge holes formed per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is the same as the number of discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone, and the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate

of the heater installed in the main heating zone is larger than the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone.

9. (new) A reflow furnace as claimed in claim 7 wherein the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is the same as the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone, and the number of discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is larger than the number of discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone.

10. (new) A reflow furnace as claimed in claim 7 wherein the number of discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is larger than the number of discharge holes per unit area in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone, and the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the main heating zone is larger than the diameter of the discharge holes in the perforated plate of the heater installed in the preheating zone.

11. (new) A heater for blowing hot air comprising a box-shaped body, an electric heater disposed inside the body, two partitions which divide an interior of the body into a suction

chamber and discharge chambers on opposite sides of the suction chamber, the partitions sloping towards each other at an upper end of the suction chamber to reduce a width of the suction chamber, each partition having an opening which connects the suction chamber with one of the discharge chambers, and a blower installed in a lower portion of the suction chamber, an upper end of each discharge chamber having a perforated plate having discharge holes formed therein.

12. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 including a separate perforated plate for each discharge chamber.

13. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 12 wherein each perforated plate is coated with a black ceramic.

14. (new) A heater as claimed in claim 11 including a suction opening formed in the upper end of the body and communicating with the suction chamber, wherein the area of the suction opening is smaller than the area of the upper end of each discharge chamber.